



**in**

**BOOKS**



**in**

**BOSTON**



This booklist has been prepared by  
Boston teenagers for Boston teenagers.

Their choices of "in" books are as  
varied as books can be, ranging  
from established classics to recently  
published stories for young adults,  
from biographies of notable figures  
in history to profiles of sports  
figures.

The books on this list may be found  
in the Central Library and in the  
branches of the Boston Public Library.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

1967



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The greatest book I've read and possibly the greatest ever written in the field of science fiction is A Canticle for Leibowitz by Walter M. Miller. The book is tremendous for many reasons but mainly because of the ability of the author to bring aspects of reality and of the supernatural together so that they clash, often bringing about unexpected but well described results.

The story is of a new era, for that of the 20th century has come to an abrupt end by means of atomic warfare. Leibowitz, a scientist who survived the 20th-century "burn out," decided to try to preserve a few books that likewise survived the atomic deluge. This isolated community came to be known as the Albertian Order of St. Leibowitz. The monks kept intact the knowledge of the books; but men, because of the books, were eventually led to a Renaissance and a new age of technology. The reader is then able to perceive man stumbling again toward destruction. So great does the greed for power grow that man is unable to discern his last chance for redemption.

The book is one of beauty, hatred, humor, and violence. To read A Canticle for Leibowitz is a worthwhile experience, even for those who refuse to consider situations other than the natural.

DANIEL VARAFALDI

English High School

Death Be Not Proud is the tragic story of a teenage boy's fight for life. John Gunther relates the story of his son's life after he learned he was suffering from an incurable brain tumor.

John Jr. did not give up hope when he learned of his illness; he went on living even though he knew he would soon die. During the time he was in the hospital, John won the admiration and respect of his doctors and nurses. John faced death without qualms and finished the last part of his life bravely. As his tumor grew, so did his courage. This little book tells a tragic story, but it appeals to everyone. If people compared their problems with John Gunther's, they would realize how courage and hope could ease the pain even if the cause seemed hopeless. The raw courage, the cheerfulness, and the hope with which John Gunther faced death makes this memoir truly inspiring.

JEAN MARIE BRENNAN

St. Mary of the Annunciation  
High School, Cambridge

# # #

THE EDGE OF THE SEA

Rachel Carson

The meeting-place of the land and the mysterious sea is a world as old as time, a world where life began. The advance and retreat of the tides in endless rhythm make the shore now part of the sea, now part of the land.

Miss Carson, an excellent writer and marine biologist, takes us on a visit to the three types of shore: the rocky shore, the

rim of sand, and the coral coast. She tells how the creatures that live in the no-man's land between high and low tide survive the fury of the sea and the harshness of dry land. She explores sea caves and tidal flats and describes the lives of the plants and animals she finds there.

The sea inspires in me a feeling of wonder. To those who share this feeling, The Edge of the Sea will be an informative and enjoyable book.

RICARDO ENG

Boston Latin School

# # #

JANE EYRE

Emily Bronte

Who had tried to kill Mr. Rochester? Who had torn the wedding veil and then stamped on it before the wedding day? Jane Eyre had been brought to Thornfield Hall as a governess for Adele Varens who was under the guardianship of Mr. Rochester, the master of Thornfield Hall. Before long, Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester were planning to be married. The wedding day came, but as the couple stood at the altar, the ceremony was interrupted. A man burst in claiming that Mr. Rochester could not marry because he was already married, and his wife was alive. It was true, and his wife was mad.

I was inspired to read this because of having seen the movie "Jane Eyre." I found the movie very interesting, but the book was much better.

CONNIE GALLION

Clarence R. Edwards  
Junior High School

I have read many books - mysteries, adventures, science fiction, and plays - and I have found a particular book, A Breath of Fresh Air, most enjoyable. The story is about Sarah Brooke Lawrence, a seventeen-year-old girl who faces many family problems in her daily life. It is set in Concord, Massachusetts; and because I have visited Concord, I found it easy to feel like Brooke, as she is called in the book.

Brooke's mother and father want a divorce after twenty years of marriage. "It's for the best," they say. But how does Brooke cope with this horrible situation? She loves both of her parents equally. How does Brooke help her brother who is still too young to understand?

In addition to family troubles, Brooke has problems in her friendship with David. A Breath of Fresh Air is amusing and heart-warming; it is filled with tears and laughter. I recommend it to teenage boys and girls.

ANGELA ROPI

Mary E. Curley Junior High School

Animal Farm is a well-written, seemingly simple book. The setting is an English farm whose owner, Mr. Jones, enjoys living well but is also somewhat penurious. He neglects his animals and forces them to work very hard. The animals, led by Old Major, an old and wise boar, revolt against Mr. Jones and the human race. After careful planning, they run the Jones family off the farm and begin an egalitarian society where everyone is called comrade and where each does an equal amount of work, eating, and sleeping. This Utopia succeeds for a while until the pigs decide they deserve a little more milk, a little more sleep, and better living quarters (they choose the farmhouse for their new home). They then assume the command, having run off all the other animals, and begin to trade with the humans until at the end it is hard to tell the pigs from the humans.

Taken at face value this is an uncomplicated story but it is really a satire on Socialist life in which some are "more equal" than others. In the revolution to overthrow a tyrant, the mob is not perceptive enough to realize that in overthrowing one tyrant they may be gaining another.

This is an exciting book, fast moving and never dull, and the author makes his point in few words.

CHRISTINE BROWN

Girls' Latin School

After six years of research, Truman Capote has written the amazing account of the mass murder, in 1959, of the Clutter family. Capote recreates the gripping story as though he were living the life of every person involved.

A brief background of the prosperous Kansas farming family, and the revelation of the fatal intentions of the murderers create mounting suspense. The almost futile investigations, and the eventual capture, conviction, and execution, as related by Capote, are combined in the most tragically impressive literature I have yet read.

My emotions were dominated throughout the book. Nancy Clutter's death to me was the worst of all. Being the same age now as Nancy was when she died (sixteen), made me realize more intensely what a tragic event the slayings were.

Combining fact with emotion to produce every element of human interest, Truman Capote has created a literary work, indeed compulsory for everyone.

CLAIRE MAHONEY

Girls' Latin School

Pagan rites, ancient cultures, the clash of armies, a people in exile, torture and inquisition, schools and learning, and people--mainly people--comprise the plot of this historical novel.

Through the guise of an archeological dig at an ancient town in northern Israel, Michener tells us the story of a land and its people. Pagans, Jews, Christians, Moslems - all lived at Makor and all contributed a little something. We learn of the first settlers of Makor - the cavemen who decided to live in a house instead of a cave, the Jews and their exile in foreign lands, the Catholics and their short stay in the Holy Land, the Arabs who conquered the land and ruled for a thousand years, the Israelis who fought the Arabs to once again establish their homeland.

Michener tells of the everyday life of each of these peoples in a novel that is exciting and interesting from beginning to end. As each page passes you can see before you not just a novel but a history of the people of the Middle East through the ages.

BARRY GOLD

English High School

In Bhutan an English botanical expedition headed by Jack Marquis meets an Indian colonel and his captive, a Chinese general, who are fleeing from a Red Chinese brigade (which is advancing into the Northeast frontier of India.) Fugitives and scientists join forces and are pursued relentlessly by the Communists over the formidable Himalayas. In this particular flight some of the members of Marquis' group are tested beyond endurance, both physically and psychologically.

I think that any adventure-minded boy in his teens would enjoy this book because of its unbearable tension and suspense, and also because it is a timely war story. The Oriental setting of the story sets a dramatic effect.

This is one of the most exciting stories I ever read.

ROBERT SITEMAN

Boston Technical High School

# # #

FANTASTIC VOYAGE

Isaac Asimov

Fantastic Voyage is an excellent book which was the basis for the screen play. The book itself is about five people who go into a top official's body so that they can get to his brain and break a blood clot. This top official is a scientist, the one person who knows the secret of "suspended miniaturization." The five go into the body and get involved in all kinds of situations. For

instance, they cannot go through an artery because the blood flow is too great against them, so they have to travel through the heart. Finally they perform the operation, but time is short. The adventurers have only one minute and fifty-eight seconds in which to return to the outside of the body. Can they get outside in the remaining seconds? Will the operation save the scientist?

MARK DREWS  
Mary E. Curley Junior High School

# # #

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

Edward Albee

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? exposes the family secrets of two faculty couples. Martha and George, home from a party, mercilessly insult each other and their guests, a younger couple, Nick and Honey. In the ensuing battle the two couples play a series of "games" designed to infuriate the players. This "fun" reveals Honey, seemingly naive, as an hysterical alcoholic, and Nick, her biology professor husband, as an upstart who married Honey for her money and is dissatisfied with his home life.

For twenty-one years Martha and George have been bringing up an imaginary child. To win one of the "games" in the battle, George kills this illusion of a child that had dominated his life with Martha for so long. Now they must face reality.

This play is interesting because of its symbolism and fast-paced dialogue.

LEAH PRESS  
Girls' Latin School

Johnny Tremain, a brilliant, talented, and conceited young apprentice silversmith, who is praised by such a noted member of his field as Paul Revere, finds himself suddenly cast out of the home of his master when a jealous rival burns and cripples his hand. Out in the streets of Boston in 1773 Johnny, depressed, humiliated, and lonelier than he knows with only Priscilla, his ex-master's daughter as a friend, meets a most interesting new companion. Rab, a devoted Whig, who is caught up in the political fury of his time, helps Johnny to learn more about his country, the people around him, and himself.

So it happened that Johnny, too, became a patriot. Dr. Warren, one of the many famous people that Johnny meets in his exciting new life tells him his maimed hand can be cured so that he can handle a gun to fight for liberty and maybe someday return to silversmithing.

This is an exciting, fast-moving story to be enjoyed by young people who might be interested in a boy living in a trying time of our country's history.

JOYCE CALLAHAN

Saint Mary's School, Charlestown

Knebel and Bailey, both outstanding novelists, have combined their literary talents to make this superb novel.

These seven days tell about the nuclear disarmament crisis and a missile strike crisis as well as a plot to overthrow the government--all of which will keep the reader most interested.

The novel is fast-moving, suspense filled, and will hold the reader's interest throughout the entire story.

WILLIAM DALEY

Cathedral High School

# # #

YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE

Earl Hamner

This is a humorous yet touching story of a fifteen-year-old boy's search throughout New York City for his wildly unpredictable father, Joe. Joe is a sensitive, hard-drinking, unemployed writer who is constantly seeking an imaginary place, Shy Beaver, where kindness and love abound. Through his adventures while looking for Joe, the boy learns the story of Joe's first wife, his own birth, and other incidents which explain Joe's "love affair with the world."

Earl Hamner tells this story with his characteristic gentle humor and concludes with a delightful scene which climaxes the son's search.

PAULA SHINNICK

Girls' Latin School





I found Matthiessen's biography of the American novelist Theodore Dreiser most interesting primarily because it helped me to prepare for some of his famous works in the following ways.

First, Matthiessen depicts the influence of his family on Dreiser. He then proceeds to portray some of Dreiser's attitudes which are constantly displayed in his novels. He shows how Dreiser arrived at these attitudes and cites passages from his works to demonstrate them. One important aspect of the biography is the description of Dreiser's often pompous style.

Finally, Matthiessen discusses Dreiser's unconventional politics and philosophy, shedding much light on an interesting and very controversial character.

ROBERT BLUHM

Boston Latin School

# # #

BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

Murrell Edmunds

Marva Jackson, a Negro girl, is the first one of her race to be admitted to Deep Forest, an exclusive college for girls from aristocratic families. She is also given a scholarship to the college. In order to earn some money for school, she works during the summer as a maid in the home of a wealthy Virginia family. While living in the house, Marva encounters and

experiences many situations in her relations with the family that contribute to her spiritual and mental growth.

I liked the story because, although it is fiction, the subject is very realistic and concerns all of us one way or the other. The problems of de facto segregation in the schools also exist on the college level. There are still bigots and segregationists in our world, and we must learn to accept this fact if we are ever to live together in a world of peace.

LOIS AUSTIN

Jeremiah E. Burke High School  
for Girls

# # #

THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN

Thomas Merton

In the postwar era numerous books on vocations were written. One such book was THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN by Thomas Merton. It is the story of a young man's indecision as to whether he would prefer a religious vocation to that of a writer. This indecision helps him to find his true vocation. After many years of unsatisfactory writing he decides, with the aid of his friends, to become a monk. But even this presents a problem to him. He goes into many different monasteries only to find more discontent. Though he likes to talk he finally decides that the solitude of a Trappist monastery is his vocation. He has now been in the monastery for many years and he writes in the epilogue of his book that he is glad he waited for mature years to decide his lifetime job. This book had a great impact on me because it taught the great importance of making the right decision.

ANN CAPUTO

Gate of Heaven High School

Napoleon Bonaparte, a neglected French General during the Revolution, rose to become the King of France through the efforts of Eugenie Desiree Clary, a silk merchant's daughter. The coronation of Napoleon and Josephine proved that the once cherished love between Napoleon and Desiree (as she preferred to be called) no longer existed. Desiree found comfort and protection, however, in Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte, a young energetic Marshal and her future husband. Jean-Baptiste's fame was also accredited to the inspiration of Desiree.

The uniting of Sweden and Denmark resulted in the title of Crown Prince and Princess being eliminated and the title King and Queen being bestowed upon them. The influence of Jean-Baptiste on the French people finally resulted in the throne of France being overthrown. An angel from heaven, Desiree performed the miracle of influencing two men and a nation.

Desiree is a novel which is different from most factual books on the French Revolution. It combines life with history to show the role of people in history.

MARIE PREFONTAINE

St. Gregory High School

Adventure, suspense, and romance are combined in this novel for avid historical fiction readers. Its background, the period of the French Revolution, is fully described with all the turmoil and intrigue of that era. Its hero is an Englishman, Sir Percy Blakeney, supposedly the dullest and sleepest man on that side of the Atlantic, although he has a dazzlingly beautiful and clever wife. Actually he is the daring Scarlet Pimpernel, who rescues French aristocrats in danger of being guillotined by the bloodthirsty Robespierre and his followers. With the help of the Scarlet Pimpernel aristocrats escape from France to safety in England. The author shows how the Scarlet Pimpernel uses his wits and ingenuity in fashioning escape plans. Some of them are quite amusing.

Although at first you may find the story a bit confusing and slow-moving, it soon becomes much more exciting and is well worth the time spent reading it.

BECK H. WONG

Jeremiah E. Burke High School  
for Girls

By presenting the current problems of teen-agers in a story that allows complete identity of the reader with the characters Jeanette Eyerly has succeeded in reaching young people, with reality her key factor. As the plot unfolds, Robin, a cute, not too popular teen, suddenly finds herself good friends with a fast moving girl, Cass, and dating a handsome, smooth-operating boy. So caught up with her own romantic ideas, Robin fails to see the increasingly serious note of Cass's relationship with her steady boy friend, Brew Winfield. Reality strikes a nasty blow at Robin when Cass reveals her pregnancy. As an unwed mother Cass faces the world a little wiser and with the help of her truest friend, Robin, her road back to a normal life is made a little happier.

This story expresses all the sentiment present in the world today for those girls who are unfortunately blinded by love into giving too much of themselves before marriage. It clearly reveals the easiness with which a predicament like the one faced by Cass can arise. Although grief and pity for Cass and occasionally Robin are the chief emotions in A Girl Like Me, I personally, as a teenager, recommend the reading of this story to every girl.

ELLEN McLEAN

Msgr. Ryan Memorial High School

The theme of The Great Gatsby is the gradual withering of the American dream. Fitzgerald picks his characters out of their western background along with their newly acquired wealth and places them in the corruption of the East (New York). They are just beginning to develop their ideal when Fitzgerald watches their actions and reactions to the situation. Fitzgerald's involvement in the psychological emotions and physical actions of his characters fills the story with life and intrigue.

I feel this story is most enjoyable and most interesting. Fitzgerald presents this story in such a way that once you begin to read it you become involved in its complexity. However, it becomes easier to read and easier to understand as you go on. I would highly recommend this book for young adults not only because of the deep meaning it brings out, but also because of the enjoyment and pleasure you get out of reading it.

JAMES COLLINS

Boston College High School

The plot of The 480 revolves around a forthcoming presidential campaign and the search for a candidate. John Thatch, the hero, is a construction company owner involved in international trade. By a stroke of luck he solves a border incident between Pakistan and India, and breaks up an organized "ring" in the Philippines, receiving front-page headlines in every newspaper in the nation. This press build-up he receives causes party leaders to consider him seriously as a presidential candidate.

The title of the novel is derived from a system of cataloguing people into 480 different categories. Religion, job, political party, and residence in a specific section of the country are among the many factors categorized. With this new computerized system, party leaders are confident that they will be able to predict the vote before it is actually cast.

I felt that I was actually a part of the behind-the-scenes preparation for the political campaign of John Thatch.

ALAN GOLDBERG

Boston Technical High School

This book deals with the story of Mickey Mantle, one of the greatest ball players of our times. He emerges, not as a famous athlete, but as a man who overcomes much physical pain in order to show himself and the world that courage can win out.

A bone disease that affected his legs, causing great agony, has been this great athlete's problem for many years. He refused to let it get him down as he constantly has shown by the number of home runs he belts out every season. Many times other men have run the bases for him, but he still keeps plugging.

I do recommend it as a book for teen-agers to read. It might be a good influence to some of us who would like to give up on things that sometimes appear too hard. Just thinking of the courage Mickey has shown all during a brilliant career could convince some of us to try harder.

JERRY MORAN

Woodrow Wilson Junior High School

While very young, Rachel Donelson married Captain Robards, a war hero. However, he, being very jealous and suspicious, made it almost impossible for them to live together. Unable to obtain a divorce because of state laws, Rachel went to her mother's home; and it was there that she fell in love and eventually married Andrew Jackson.

Later, as Jackson entered politics, life for both of them was very unfortunate and miserable. Rachel was not accepted into society. Often her husband would fight for her reputation. Nevertheless, all these events could never destroy their eternal love.

This novel stresses excitement and is more appealing because it is authentic. Unlike an historical novel, it introduces true characters in their true situations. Each individual is shown with his own educational background, personality and temperament, according to the author's interpretation.

Undoubtedly, this story is excellent reading material for one who craves adventure, admires courage, and respects love.

PATRICIA O'DONNELL

Cathedral High School

"A Man for All Seasons" is a moving drama portraying the life of Saint Thomas More. More is depicted as a man with strength of character, high ideals, and deep convictions. Though surrounded by hostile forces he refuses to yield, steadfast in his loyalty to God and the voice of his conscience. In order to convict him his enemies tried More on trumped-up charges. More had kept silent about his views, believing that in non-commitment he was safe. However, since the king was supposedly a "man of conscience," he demanded either More's blessing or his death. More was convicted of high treason and sentenced to death on the premise that his silence spoke for him even if he would not reveal his views. After the sentence was delivered, More gave an excellent speech of his views and the reasons for them. The dialogue throughout the play is brilliant and the story is fast-moving. In the various scenes of the play we see More as a man with a deep love for his wife and child, respect for his friends and enemies, loyalty to his king and country; but first, More had all of these and more for his God.

JANICE CROFTON

Cardinal Cushing Central High School

Bel Kaufman's Up the Down Staircase is the delightful story of an eager young schoolteacher and her first year in a big city high school. Intraschool communications, principal's bulletins, students' notes, and personal letters uniquely trace her triumphs, failures, and relationships with her students and fellow teachers. Her attempts to reach out and break the barrier between student and teacher are, at the same time, both amusing and strangely touching.

I enjoyed this story because of its humor and universal human qualities. Almost any young person would enjoy reading the book for these same reasons. A student who reads it can readily associate its characters with the people he meets in his own school. Although Up the Down Staircase is undoubtedly funny, there is also an undercurrent of deep feeling which reflects the attitudes of students and teachers alike.

DIANA ESPOSITO

Girls' Latin School







